MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
OF FINE ARTS HELD ON JANUARY 24, 1913.

The third meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1913 was held in its office in the Lemon Building, 1729 New York avenue, NW., Washington, D. C., on Friday, January 24, 1913. The following members were present:

Mr. French, the Chairman;
Mr. Olmsted;
Mr. Hastings;
Mr. Gilbert;
Mr. Blashfield;
Mr. Anderson;
also Colonel Spencer Cosby, the Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:40 a. m., and proceeded at once to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the preceding meeting, held on November 15, 1912, were presented and approved.

2. REPORT ON HAMILTON AND JEFFERSON MONUMENTS: The Commission discussed at some length the committee report made on December 28, 1912, to the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, at the latter's request, regarding the cost, site, and form of proposed monuments in Washington to Alexander Hamilton and

The third meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1913 was held in its office in the Corcoran Building, 1710 New York avenue, NW., Washington, D. C., on Friday, January 24, 1913. The following members were present:

Mr. Proctor, the Chairman;

Mr. Olmsted;

Mr. Hastings;

Mr. Gilbert;

Mr. Bleecker;

Mr. Anderson;

also Colonel Spencer Cosby, the Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:40 o. m., and proceeded at once to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the preceding meeting, held on November 15, 1912, were presented and approved.

2. REPORT ON MARITIME AND IRRIGATION MONUMENTS: The Commission discussed at some length the committee report made on December 28, 1912, to the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, at the latter's request, regarding the cost, site, and form of proposed monuments in Washington to Alexander Hamilton and

Thomas Jefferson. The report was formally approved.

3. VISIT OF COMMITTEE TO THE CANAL ZONE: The Commission next considered the section of the Panama Canal Act, approved August 24, 1912, which provides that the Commission of Fine Arts "may make report to the President of their recommendation regarding the artistic character of the structures of the canal". Colonel Cosby communicated to the Commission the request of Colonel Goethals, Chairman of the Isthmian Canal Commission, urging that the Commission of Fine Arts or a committee of its members visit the Canal Zone in February in order to advise him regarding certain problems confronting him there. In view of this request, and in order to enable the Commission to make its report, it was resolved upon motion duly moved and seconded that, owing to the impossibility of the Commission, as a whole, going at an early date, a special committee be appointed to make the trip in February, and that the appointment of this committee be by election and not by direct appointment by the Chair. Thereupon Mr. French and Mr. Olmsted were elected the special committee to make the trip to the Canal Zone. Mr. Cammerer, the clerk to the Commission, was directed to accompany the committee on this trip.

4. LETTER FROM MR. G. F. C. SMILLIE: Colonel Cosby read a letter from Mr. Glenn Brown, Secretary of the American Institute of Architects, and a letter forwarded

by him from Mr. C. F. C. Smillie of Washington in which the latter suggests action by the Commission to impede the proposed erection of houses along 20th street from the Biltmore street line south. Colonel Cosby also read a reply which he had prepared in which he informed Mr. Brown that, under the terms of the law constituting it, the Commission has no power to take any initiatory action in any matter? The Commission directed that this reply be sent. (See Exhibit A.)

5. INSCRIPTION FOR THE GRANT MONUMENT: The Commission next considered the request of the Executive Officer of the Grant Statue Commission for an opinion upon a sketch of the inscription for the monument, prepared by the architect, Mr. Edward Pearce Casey. The Commission suggested that the name of the General be made more prominent, that a margin be left on each side of the inscription, that the latter be arranged so as to fill the entire panel leaving about the same margins at the top and bottom as at the side, and that the letters in the inscription be made as large as possible under these conditions.

6. TREATMENT OF PROPOSED VIADUCT ALONG RIVER FRONT FROM POTOMAC PARK TO ROCK CREEK: Colonel Cosby brought up the question of the treatment of the viaduct proposed by the Park Commission along the Potomac River front from Potomac Park to Rock Creek, and asked whether, in the opinion of the Commission, the proposed development of this section should follow the Park Commission plans. The Commission was of opinion that

the Government should keep title to the waterfront of the Potomac River. After an inspection of this territory later in the day, it was decided to study this question and consider it at the next meeting.

7. TREATMENT OF THE TERRITORY ADJOINING THE UNION STATION: Mr. Anderson brought up the question of the treatment of the territory which the Government is acquiring and has acquired between the Union Station and the Capitol Building, and described the studies for different treatments which had been prepared by the architects of the Station, Messrs. D. H. Burnham and Company. It was suggested that, before the next meeting, each member of the Commission give consideration to the matter of the treatment of this territory with special reference to the Hamilton and Jefferson monuments and to the question as to whether the best possible treatment of this section might not be accomplished by a more orderly outline and decreased area.

8. WOMAN'S "TITANIC" MEMORIAL: Mrs John Hays Hammond, Secretary of the Woman's "Titanic" Memorial, accompanied by the Chairman of the Memorial, Mrs. John Hays, appeared before the Commission by appointment at 11:30 for a conference regarding a site and design for the memorial which is proposed to be erected in Washington. Among several sites suggested by her, one on the west shore of the Tidal Basin,

about 1,000 feet northwest of the Inlet bridge and lying between the main drive and the sea wall of the Basin, was considered excellent for a monument of suitable design. After making an inspection on the ground later in the day, the Commission informed Mrs. Hammond that they saw no objection to this site for the proposed memorial, provided Congress is willing to consent to its use for this purpose.

(See Exhibit B.)

At Mrs. Hammond's request the Commission also made various suggestions regarding the form of the proposed memorial, commending especially the erection of an open structure supported on columns. The direct selection of the sculptor or architect for the preparation of the design, and its execution was also strongly recommended to Mrs. Hammond.

9. POWELL MEMORIAL: Colonel Cosby presented a letter from the Secretary of the Interior in which the latter informed the Commission that Mr. James R. Marshall, architect, has prepared an alternative design for the proposed Powell memorial to be erected at the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and requested that the Commission confer with Mr. Marshall upon the matter. Mr. Marshall appeared before the Commission at 12:30 p. m. and discussed with the members the two designs thus far prepared by him. He agreed to prepare another design which would embody certain suggestions made by the Commission.

10. "MAINE" MEMORIAL AT ARLINGTON: The Commission next met in conference Mr. Mathan Wyeth, architect, who is preparing for the War Department a design for the "Maine" memorial to be erected in Arlington Cemetery. This memorial is to embody the mast of the wrecked battleship, and Mr. Wyeth submitted a sketch prepared by him in accordance with suggestions made at a previous conference by the Commission. It was resolved that this design be recommended for execution and that, if money is found available, the parapet shown in the sketch be put in.

11. BUTT-MILLET MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN: Colonel Cosby brought up the matter of the proposed memorial fountain to Mr. Millet and Major Butt. The estimates for a design submitted at the last meeting exceeded the amount available for the memorial, and Mr. Hastings had prepared another design which could be executed within the available sum. The latter design was approved.

12. PRESIDENT BUCHANAN MONUMENT: After a short interval for lunch the Commission at 1:30 met Mr. Lawrason Riggs of Baltimore, Trustee under the will of Harriet Lane Johnston of a fund for the erection in the city of Washington of a statue of President James Buchanan. Mr. Riggs explained the conditions of the trust, and stated that, as he had no preconceived ideas as to either the form or the site of the proposed monument, he desired the advice and recommendation of the Commission regarding these. The Commission informed Mr. Riggs that it was not prepared to advise definitely on the site

and that the design was largely contingent upon the site selected; they further stated that their recommendation as to a site or choice of sites would be presented to him as soon as possible, probably in the course of a few months. Mr. Riggs stated that, as there is no urgency in the matter, this suggestion was acceptable.

13. The Commission thereupon left the office for an inspection of the site suggested for the proposed "Titanic" memorial on the west shore of the Tidal Basin, and of the territory lying along the Potomac River between Potomac Park and Rock Creek. After this inspection the Commission adjourned, at 3:15 p. m., subject to the call of the Chairman.

Secretary.

Approved: Daniel C. French

Chairman.

January 24, 1913.

Mr. Glenn Brown,
Secretary, The American
Institute of Architects,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In accordance with the request in your letter of December 27th I brought to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting today the letter transmitted by you from Mr. G. F. C. Smillie, in which he suggests action by the Commission against the proposed erection of houses along Twentieth street from the Biltmore street line south.

I am directed by the Commission to inform you that, under the terms of the law constituting it, the functions of the Commission are advisory only, and it can advise only when called upon to do so by the President, a committee of Congress, or an officer charged by law with the determination of certain questions of art. It has no power to take any initiatory action in any matter.

Respectfully,

SPENCER COSBY

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary.

SC-ABC

Exhibit A

January 25, 1913.

Mrs. John Hays Hammond,
Secretary, Woman's"Titanic" Memorial,
2315 Massachusetts avenue, northwest,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mrs. Hammond:

The Commission of Fine Arts has made a careful examination of the site in Potomac Park suggested by you for the proposed Woman's Titanic Memorial when you appeared before the Commission at its meeting yesterday morning. The site suggested is on the west shore of the Tidal Basin, about 1,000 feet northwest of the Inlet bridge, and lies between the main drive and the sea wall of the Basin.

The Commission sees no objection to this site for the proposed memorial provided Congress is willing to consent to its use for this purpose. The site is considered an excellent one for a monument of suitable design.

Very truly yours,

SPENCER COSBY

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary.

SC-ABC

Exhibit B.